

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A data sending-out device, in which associated data associated with and multiplexed with main data is produced and sent out, comprising:

producing means for producing the associated data of a prescribed type; and

sending-out means for transforming the associated data of the prescribed type produced by the producing means into a bit stream and sending out the associated data transformed into the bit stream;

wherein

the main data is a broadcast program,

one or more tables based on electronic program guide information of the broadcast program are produced as the associated data by the producing means,

when the data sending-out device determines that the amount of information in the associated data exceeds an amount necessary to achieve a sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate and a sending-out frequency for at least one type of table equal to or higher than a specific sending-out frequency of the at least one type of table, the amount of information in at least one of the tables is decreased so that the amount of information in the associated data is less than or equal to the necessary amount, and

the one or more tables are transformed into the bit stream by the sending-out means, and the one or more tables transformed into the bit stream are sent out according to the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate and the sending-out frequency for the at least one type of table by the sending-out means.

2-7. (canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A data sending-out device according to claim 1, wherein multiple types of tables are produced by the producing means by adjusting the amounts of information in the types of tables according to a plurality of priorities of the types of tables to allow the tables to be sent out at the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate and

allow the tables to be sent out at sending-out frequencies equal to or higher than specific sending-out frequencies of the types of tables.

9. (Previously Presented) A data sending-out device according to claim 1, wherein multiple types of tables are produced by the producing means by adjusting the amounts of information in the types of tables according to a plurality of sending-out frequency reduction rates of the types of tables to allow the tables to be sent out at the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate and allow the tables to be sent out at sending-out frequencies equal to or higher than specific sending-out frequencies of the types of tables.

10. (Previously Presented) A data sending-out device according to claim 8, wherein the types of tables are produced by the producing means by adjusting the amounts of information in the types of tables according to a plurality of sending-out frequency reduction rates of the types of tables to allow the tables to be sent out at the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate and allow the tables to be sent out at the sending-out frequencies equal to or higher than the specific sending-out frequencies of the types of tables.

11-13. (canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A data sending-out device according to claim 1, wherein the one or more tables are again produced in cases where it is impossible to send out the one or more tables at the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate or it is impossible to send out the at least one type of table at the sending-out frequency equal to or higher than the specific sending-out frequency.

15. (Previously Presented) A data sending-out device according to claim 1, wherein the amount of information in at least one type of table is calculated prior to the production of the at least one type of table, and the at least one type of table is produced by the producing means by adjusting the amount of information in the at least one type of table to allow the one or more tables to be

sent out at the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate and to allow the at least one type of table to be sent out at the sending-out frequency equal to or higher than the specific sending-out frequency.

16. (Previously Presented) A data sending-out device according to claim 8, wherein the amount of information in at least one type of table is calculated prior to the production of the at least one type of table, and the at least one type of table is produced by the producing means by adjusting the amount of information in the at least one type of table to allow the tables to be sent out at the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate and to allow the at least one type of table to be sent out at the sending-out frequency equal to or higher than the specific sending-out frequency.

17. (Previously Presented) A data sending-out device according to claim 9, wherein the amount of information in at least one type of table is calculated prior to the production of the at least one type of table, and the at least one type of table is produced by the producing means by adjusting the amount of information in the at least one type of table to allow the tables to be sent out at the sending-out rate equal to or lower than the prescribed upper limit bit rate and to allow the at least one type of table to be sent out at the sending-out frequency equal to or higher than the specific sending-out frequency.

18. (Previously Presented) A data sending-out device according to claim 15, wherein, prior to the production of at least one type of table,

the amount of information for each type of table information for which the amount of the electronic program guide information is not predetermined is detected and added to a summed value in the calculation of the amount of information,

the amount of information for each type of table information for which the amount of the electronic program guide information is predetermined is read out from a record and is added to the summed value in the calculation of the amount of information, and

the amount of information in the at least one type of table is calculated.

19. (Previously Presented) A data sending-out device according to claim 16, wherein, prior to the production of at least one type of table,

the amount of information for each type of table information for which the amount of the electronic program guide information is not predetermined is detected and added to a summed value in the calculation of the amount of information,

the amount of information for each type of table information for which the amount of the electronic program guide information is predetermined is read out from a record and is added to the summed value in the calculation of the amount of information, and

the amount of information in the at least one type of table is calculated.

20. (Previously Presented) A data sending-out device according to claim 17, wherein, prior to the production of at least one type of table,

the amount of information for each type of table information for which the amount of the electronic program guide information is not predetermined is detected and added to a summed value in the calculation of the amount of information,

the amount of information for each type of table information for which the amount of the electronic program guide information is predetermined is read out from a record and is added to the summed value in the calculation of the amount of information, and

the amount of information in the at least one type of table is calculated.

21. (Previously Presented) The data sending-out device according to claim 1, wherein

the producing means produces multiple types of tables, and

when the amount of information in the associated data exceeds the necessary amount to achieve the sending-out rate and the sending out frequency, the amount of information in the at least one of the tables is decreased according to at least one of: relative priorities of the types of tables, relative importance of types of information within a table.

22. (Previously Presented) The data sending-out device according to claim 21, wherein the amount of information in the at least one of the tables is decreased by deleting information of relative low importance.